

6301 - Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: Unit Name CA-080-150-1 Pahump Dry Lake Bed

Results of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Conclusion

☐ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

☒ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by:

Team Members:

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Approved by:

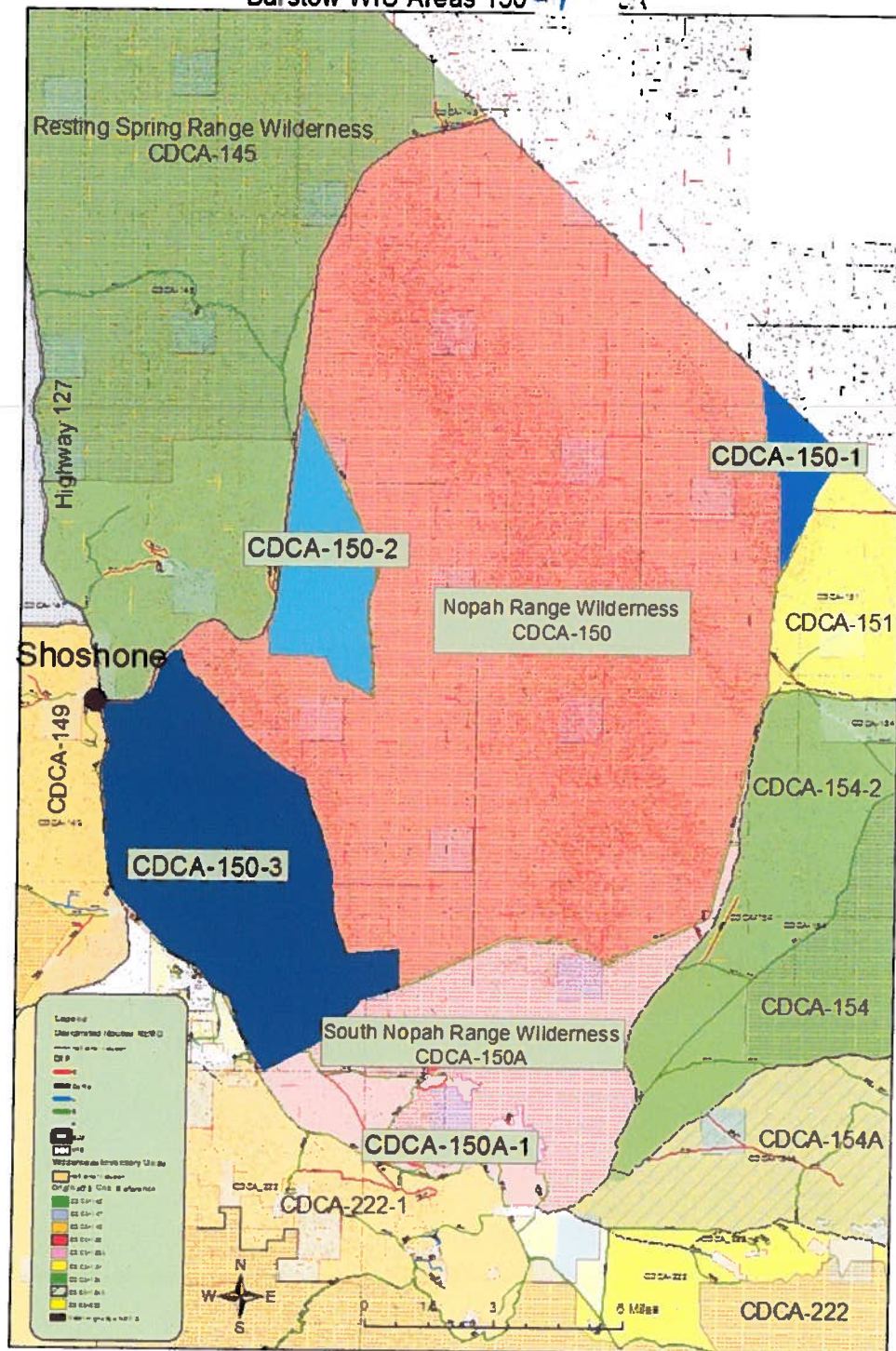
Name: 

Title: Barstow Field Manager

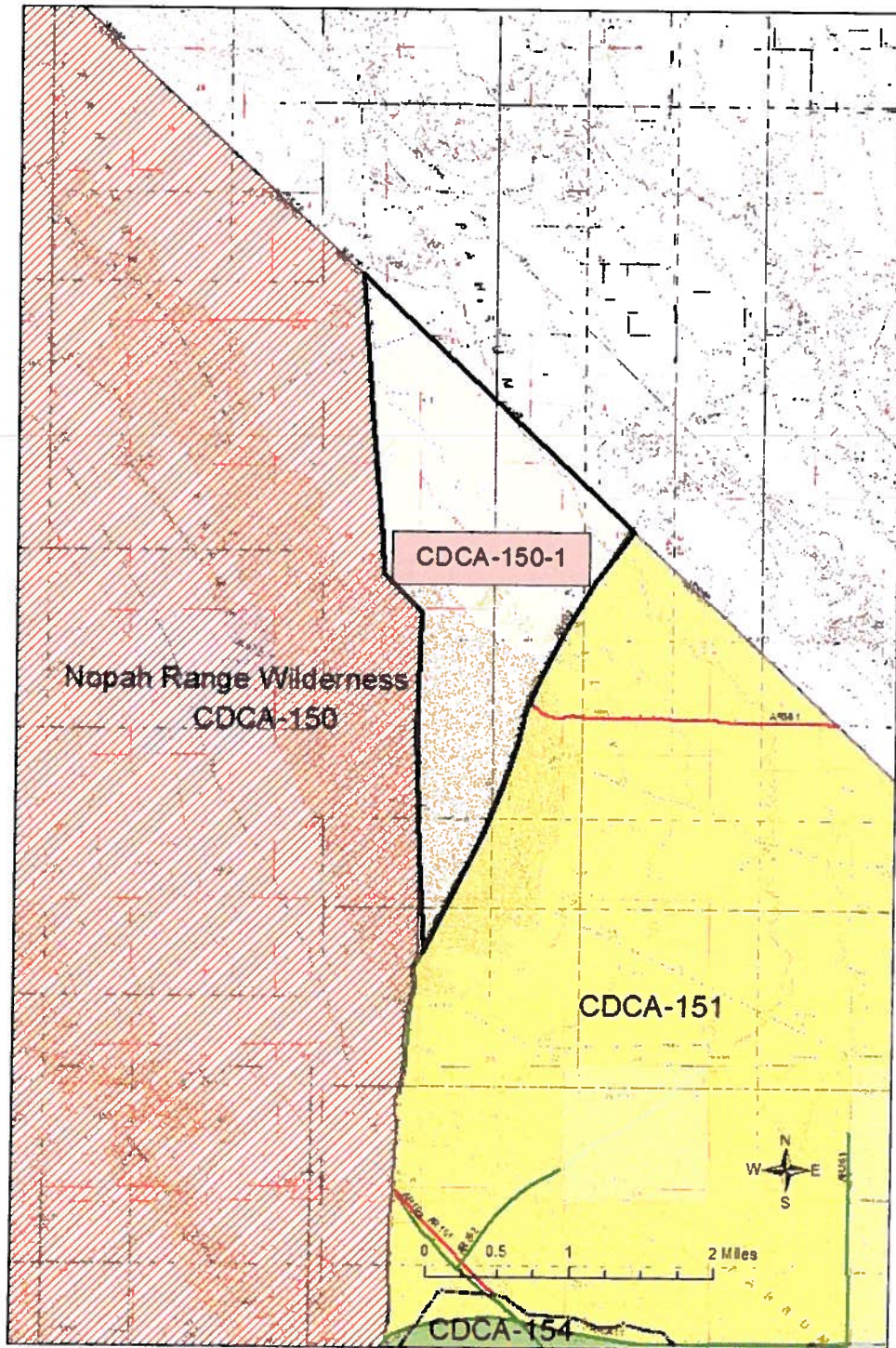
Date: 9/9/14

This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.

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Appendix B - Map 2 Land Status
Barstow WIU Area 150-1



Inventory Name/Unit Number : Unit Name CA-080-150-1

Form 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

Yes

Inventory Source: 1979 Wilderness Inventory files, California Desert Conservation Area

Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): CA-080-150 Nopah Range

Map Name(s)/Number(s): USDI BLM California Desert Wilderness Final Inventory, Dec. 1979

BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Barstow Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics: Yes

Inventory Source: 1979 Wilderness Inventory files, BLM Barstow FO
1988 CDCA-150 Nopah Range Wilderness Study Report

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
150-1	1,500	N	N	N	N/A

The 1979 wilderness inventory did not include any descriptive text specific to the north-east corner, where Pahrump Dry Lakebed is located. The report for unit 150 is rather basic and generalized for such a large and diverse land mass. This area is dominated by the large rugged Resting Spring and Nopah Range Mountains, with wide broad valleys and bajadas at the base and between ranges. The entire area is noted for having retained its primeval character.

Form 2

Documentation of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions

Unit Number/Name: CA-080-150-1 Pahrump Dry Lake

(1) Sufficient size: Yes, 1,500 Acres adjacent to Wilderness

Acreage: The area contains approximately 1,500 acres of public land condition contiguous with lands formally designated wilderness. This unit is bordered on one side by the Nopah Range Wilderness, and therefore meets the sufficient size requirement for units less than 5,000 acres.

Boundaries: Three sided triangle shape property; the north-east boundary is the Nevada state line, the southeast is a mechanically constructed and well-used dirt road designated open, the western boundary is the Nopah Range Wilderness

Description of Current Conditions

Land ownership: All public land

Location: Northeast Inyo County, California; few miles south-east of Pahrump Nevada.

Topography: Level, low elevation desert basin lands with a gentle gradient running from south-east to north-west onto a dry lake bed. There is an escarpment running along the northeastern boundary. This feature runs many miles along the southern portion of the Pahrump Valley.

Vegetation features: Salt scrub brush with broken surface caused by upwelling, interspersed with dry puffy areas. There are scattered creosote, mesquite and acacia bushes. All the plants in this area appear stunted and small, likely a result of the poor quality soils with a high alkali content. Vegetation gets denser toward the north-east and uphill portions of the unit..

Major human uses/activities: Numerous dirt paths and roads cross the featureless Pahrump Dry Lakebed forming this inventory unit. The lands on the Nevada side of the border have been developed in a rural pattern. Developments along the boundary vary from gambling parlors to large expensive private horse ranch estates. Visitors from Nevada frequent the dry lakebed and engage in a variety of outdoor recreation activities.

(2) Natural condition: No

The area is highly disturbed land with numerous roads and tracks crisscrossing throughout the area. The lands on Pahrump Dry lakebed are frequented by nearby residents in Nevada that come here for a variety of activities on the smooth, hard, dry-lakebed. This includes on-going extensive fireworks, target shooting, OHV play riding, horse-back riding, and 4x4 travel.

(3) Outstanding opportunities for solitude: NA

(4) Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation: NA

(5) Supplemental values: NA
